Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ATHENS 04117 281425Z

61
ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 NSC-07 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02

SAB-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PRS-01

L-02 DRC-01 /059 W
---------- 070734
R 281345Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3954
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION NATO
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T ATHENS 4117

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GR, TK
SUBJECT: GREEK POSITIONS ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH TURKEY

1. BOTH FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER PALAMAS AND PRESENT SECRETARY GENERAL VLACHOS HAVE CONFIDED TO ME IN LAST SEVERAL DAYS THAT THEY ARE STRONGLY URGING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE NOT ONLY ON AEGEAN OIL EXPLORATION ISSUE BUT ON ALL MAJOR PROBLEMS BETWEEN THEM. THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT GREECE'S BARGAINING POSITION WOULD BE MUCH BETTER IF ALL OUTSTANDING ISSUES--TURKISH MINORITY IN THRACE, GREEKS IN ISTANBUL, CYPRUS, AEGEAN OIL EXPLORATION, FISHERIES, ETC.--WERE PUT TOGETHER FOR PACKAGE NEGOTIATION.

2. HOWEVER, IT IS CLEAR MILITARY AND GENERAL IOANNIDES, WITH THEIR LACK OF POLITICAL SOPHISTICATION, ARE RESISTING THIS APPROACH, PREFERRING SIMPLISTIC AND NATIONALISTIC THEME OF ABSOLUTE GREEK RIGHTS IN AEGEAN OIL EXPLORATION.
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 04117 281425Z

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

3. VLACHOS TOLD ME THAT HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH GOT POSTURE OF MODERATION AND FRIENDLINESS. HE BELIEVES IT WOULD REDOUND GREATLY TO GREEK DISADVANTAGE SHOULD IT BE REPULSED, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN THE SHOCK TO TURKISH "PHILOTIMA" WHICH GREEK REJECTION OF GOT FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE COULD PRODUCE. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, SEEM OPTIMISTIC THAT GREEK MILITARY WOULD MODIFY ITS RIGID POSTURE. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE STRONGLY URGED ME TO SUPPORT HIS GENERAL PACKAGE APPROACH WITH PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER SINCE HE FEELS GREEKS USUALLY MORE INFLUENCED BY FRIENDLY FOREIGN VIEWS THAN THEIR OWN. I REPLIED THAT I WOULD CERTAINLY SUPPORT PRINCIPLE OF DISCUSSION REGARDING OUTSTANDING ISSUES BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION ON ANY ONE OF THEM.
TASCA

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